

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 747

By Faulk

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Nell Goodson on the celebration of her 101st birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Nell Goodson celebrated her 101st birthday on March 19, 2012, a milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Goodson was born in the Tar Pine Valley community of Hawkins County on March 18, 1911, the seventh of twelve children born to Houston Banner Duncan and Laura Dell Ball; and

WHEREAS, in her teenage years, Nell fell in love with a boy living over in the next ridge known as Butcher's Valley; and

WHEREAS, in 1927, at the age of sixteen, Nell married Charles Elmer Goodson and, three years later, they celebrated the birth of their son, Doyle; and

WHEREAS, the new mother followed her beloved Elmer from Tennessee to Maryland in search of employment to support the family and, in 1935, Elmer and Nell welcomed their second child, a daughter named Imogene; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Goodson moved back to Tennessee in 1940, settling in Surgoinsville. Elmer found employment at Tennessee Eastman and Nell began working at Holston Defense; and

WHEREAS, upon the conclusion of World War II, Nell returned to being a homemaker and mother; and

WHEREAS, Nell Goodson gave birth to their third child, Pamela, in 1953; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Goodson enjoyed many years of wedded bliss until Elmer's untimely passing in 1957, after which Nell returned to work to financially support their youngest daughter; and

WHEREAS, in 1960, Mrs. Goodson began serving with acumen and alacrity as a cafeteria cook at Surgoinsville Elementary School, a position which she served estimably for twenty-five years until her retirement in 1985; and

WHEREAS, upon her retirement from the Hawkins County School System, Nell began working for a government program called Green Thumb, through which she worked as a caregiver to senior citizens in Hawkins County; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Goodson now resides in Kingsport and serves faithfully as a devout member of First Baptist Church of Surgoinsville; and

WHEREAS, her numerous accomplishments aside, she is deeply devoted to her family and she always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Nell is the proud matriarch of children Kenneth Doyle Goodson (deceased), Imogene G. Trent, and Pamela G. Ward; grandchildren Bill Trent, Tracy Goodson Espy, Phillip Trent, Elizabeth Trent Metz, Brandon Ward, and Laura Ward Meade; and great-grandchildren Will Trent, Monica Trent, Carter Metz, Amelia Metz, and Houston Meade; and

WHEREAS, Nell Goodson is still an active and productive member of society, and we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby join with the family and friends of Nell Goodson in celebrating this special lady's 101st birthday and extend to Mrs. Goodson our best wishes for many happy returns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.